



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hideaki TANAKA

Application No.: 10/073,409

Filed: February 13, 2002

Docket No.: 111867

For: THE VULCANIZING MOLD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0051] as follows:

Figs. 16(a) and 16(b) are plan view and cross-sectional view respectively, showing the details of fine air-vent apertures in the mold piece.

Please replace paragraph [0068] as follows:

A seventh embodiment of the present invention will be explained below with reference to Figs. 15 and 16. Fig. 15 is a plan view showing a molding surface of the mold piece 10, and Figs. 16(a) and 16(b) is a plan view and a cross-sectional view, respectively, showing the details of air discharging fine aperture. At the position of the molding-surface 14 corresponding to the land of the tread portion and isolated from the narrow gap 17 in the abutment surface 12, there is arranged a cylindrical member 71 having a top surface, which forms part of the molding surface 14. The top surface of the cylindrical member 71 is

provided with a slit 72 forming an air discharging fine aperture. The air spaces caused at a location isolated from the narrow gap 17 can be directly discharged to the exterior of the mold, through each slit 72. The preferable range of the slit 72 is 0.02 mm to 0.1 mm for width w6, and 0.1 mm to 2 mm for depth h6.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification is amended. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten paragraph (37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)).

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Thomas J. Pardini
Registration No. 30,411

JAO:TJP/cmm

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: May 1, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--

APPENDIX

Changes to Specification:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended paragraphs:

[0051] ~~Fig. 16 is a~~ Figs. 16(a) and 16(b) are plan view and cross-sectional view, respectively, showing the details of fine air-vent apertures in the mold piece ~~of Fig. 16.~~

[0068] A seventh embodiment of the present invention will be explained below with reference to Figs. 15 and 16. Fig. 15 is a plan view showing a molding surface of the mold piece 10, and ~~Figs. 16 is~~ 16(a) and 16(b) is a plan view and a cross-sectional view, respectively, showing the details of air discharging fine aperture. At the position of the molding-surface 14 corresponding to the land of the tread portion and isolated from the narrow gap 17 in the abutment surface 12, there is arranged a cylindrical member 71 having a top surface, which forms part of the molding surface 14. The top surface of the cylindrical member 71 is provided with a slit 72 forming an air discharging fine aperture. The air spaces caused at a location isolated from the narrow gap 17 can be directly discharged to the exterior of the mold, through each slit 72. The preferable range of the slit 72 is 0.02 mm to 0.1 mm for width w6, and 0.1 mm to 2 mm for depth h6.